

Essential Learning...In The Arts

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ARTS EDUCATION
COLLABORATIVE

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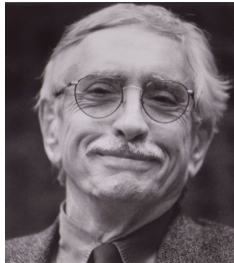
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Edward Albee: Keynote Speaker for Regional Arts Education Day



The Arts Education Collaborative is pleased to announce that on **Monday, April 28, 2008**, Edward Albee, three-time Pulitzer prize-winning playwright, will be the keynote speaker for Regional Arts Education Day. Hailed as "the greatest living playwright" by *The New Yorker*, Edward Albee has been lauded as "one of the eternal innovators" in American drama. Albee is most well-known for his three-act drama, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* In his speaking engagements, Albee continues to describe the power of the arts as a catalyst for change. "The job of the arts," says Albee, "is to hold a mirror up to us and say: 'Look, this is how you really are. If you don't like it, change.'"

The day's activities will be from 9 am to 3 pm at Soldiers & Sailors National Military Museum Memorial and the theme for this year is *Imagination and Creativity: A Civic Evolution*. Participants are eligible for 5 ACT 48 hours and the cost for attending is \$55 (includes a continental breakfast and lunch). For more information and to download the registration form, visit www.artsedcollaborative.org/calendar.html.

AEC & MCG Jazz Collaborate on Jazz Education Project

The Arts Education Collaborative (AEC) and MCG Jazz are partnering in an exciting project to position the Western Pennsylvania region as a center for jazz education. If you are a music educator, we would like to invite you to become a part of this important venture by completing a short survey (a mailing of this survey will be going out soon. It is also available on our website by navigating to this web page: www.artsedcollaborative.org/news.html). Completing the survey should take you approximately 15 minutes.

As an incentive for completing and returning the survey, we will enter your name in a raffle to win a 4GB iPod Nano pre-loaded with over 20 albums of the MCG recordings (including 4 Grammy Award winning albums). In addition, 10 MCG jazz albums will be awarded as secondary prizes. Please note that only surveys with names provided can be entered in to the raffle. For more information, visit www.artsedcollaborative.org/news.html.

Music Aesthetics Workshop A Success

On February 20, participants gathered for the first day of the two-day music aesthetics workshop, "What Why Music Means: How & Why We Respond to Music," at Heinz Hall in downtown Pittsburgh. This workshop series is a partnership between the Arts Education Collaborative (AEC) and Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (PSO). The first day was spent discussing the how, what, when, and why's of teaching music aesthetics and culminated in a talk back with Pulitzer Prize-winning Composer John Corigliano (photo bottom left) and PSO Guest Conductor Marin Alsop. The conversation between these two world-renowned artists was moderated by PSO Associate Conductor Lawrence Loh.

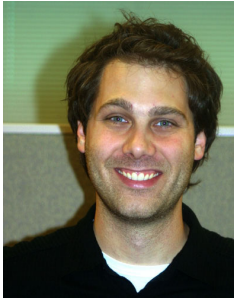


Michael Cerveris, AEC Program Associate, reflects on the days activities: "We are very pleased with the positive response from area music educators to this workshop. Day one took a look at personal values of the participants in terms of music aesthetics. Day two which will take place in April will focus on developing student perspectives for aesthetic response to music." Look for the AEC and PSO to recreate this workshop series in the near future. For more information, contact Dana Casto at castod@artsedcollaborative.org.



Focus on Leadership

by Elizabeth Kripp, AEC Program Associate



When Pine Richland art teacher, Vince Thearle, a member of the first AEC Leadership Academy class of 2003, read the information from Slippery Rock University about the grant opportunity to assist in working toward certification from the

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS), he became interested. He knew from conversations with some of his own former teachers from Pittsburgh's Carrick High School that National board Certification is the new "gold standard" for teachers. He proceeded to apply for the grant obtained through the Professional Development School at Slippery Rock University and set his sights on reaching a goal that less than 500 Pennsylvania teachers have achieved. However, he didn't know what a formidable challenge he was facing. In fact, only two-thirds of his class at Slippery Rock completed the course despite the tremendous inspiration and support from the late Dr. Claudia Balach.

The project demands submission of four portfolios. Three are classroom based and the fourth documents the applicant's work as a leader, learner, collaborator and a communicator. Within each of these portfolios, Vince had to provide very specific evidence of student learning and growth. One piece of this evidence was an unedited video accompanied by a reflection piece that thoroughly scrutinized the contents. Vince was glad to have his colleague, Ramon Riley, also a Leadership Academy member, at his side to help him work through all the technology issues that surfaced during this process. Finally, Vince was required to demonstrate his knowledge of content during a three hour session at an assessment center.

Of course, Vince's hard work in meeting this challenge successfully brought great rewards. Vince reports, "Everything you do is completely authentic... all based on your teaching." He further explains, "It's all about how you apply the certificate standards to your own teaching."

In Vince's case, that meant working toward certification in *Art for Early Adolescent through Young Adulthood*. But achieving NBPTS certification brings other benefits along with it. Vince reports that he trusts his instincts a lot more than he ever did, particularly when it comes to "big picture" thinking. For example, when the art department was directed to redesign the course sequence, he felt very confident in thinking systematically about student learning needs. "I haven't experienced this type of growth as a professional since my participation in the first [AEC] Leadership Academy in 2003." Vince reports, "I have become much better at establishing relationships and calling upon contacts in the community." Recently Vince welcomed an owner of a design group to his 2D Design class to lead the students in a discussion of real world applications of their classroom learning. Included in this experience was an opportunity for students to write reflection essays about the visit. Rigorous reflective writing is a core idea of the National Board process and Vince sees that as a real opportunity to take student understanding of their learning in the arts to a much deeper level.

In summary, Vince sees this entire process as "rocket fuel" for his teaching. He thinks that the best part of this entire experience may be that his students have seen the benefits. And isn't that what this is all about!

For more information about National Board certification check out the following:

www.nbpts.org/for_candidates/certificate_areas1?ID=11&x=49&y=13

Leadership Academy 2008

The 2008 Arts Education Collaborative Leadership Academy will take place at Duquesne University from **July 21-25, 2008.**

Look for applications coming out soon!

Celebrating Five Years of Regional Arts Education Day

Imagination and Creativity: A Civic Evolution

by Dr. Sarah Tambucci, Director, AEC



Once again, the AEC embraces the opportunity to host an event designed to get us all to think, to exchange perspectives, to motivate and to be motivated. Regional Arts

Education Day has evolved from a convening to celebrate our shared vision about the value of the arts as part of a comprehensive education to a convening that reaches out to the broader community and helps to inform public opinion and policy.

It is fitting, therefore, in this election year, to consider the relationship between our civic rights and responsibilities, and the arts. This year's keynote speaker, award winning playwright, Edward Albee, describes the power of the arts as a catalyst for change. Albee will encourage all of us to consider the critical thinking skills that are developed and nurtured while studying the arts. How do these skills help us to develop into discerning citizens? How does our very ability to function as a civic-minded and inspired individual relate to the very preservation of the democracy?

Last year's keynote speaker, Dan Pink, author of *A New Kind of Mind*, encouraged us to consider the economic impact of the arts and how they continue to enable us to not merely succeed but prevail in a global economy that embraces invention and innovation. This year, we build on that notion and extend our conversation from economic imperative to civic responsibility.

Will you be there to be inspired? Be challenged? Be engaged? Who else needs to hear this message? Who will you invite to attend with you? A school board member who supports maintaining, eliminating or extending the curriculum? An administrator who recommends scheduling options that provide all students opportunities to study the arts? A community leader who has broader decision-making authority? A parent who has latent and real power to affect change?

Let's not leave it 'to the other guy' to take the next step. Come and realize your own ability to influence.

In The News...

New Report Released by Dana Foundation: Learning, Arts, & the Brain

An article in the March 7, 2008 online edition of *Education Week* highlighted a new report released by the Dana Foundation. This report, covering 3 years worth of studies, focused on helping neuroscientists and psychologists understand how training in the arts may contribute to students general thinking skills.

No definitive conclusions are drawn in terms of whether or not the "arts make you smarter" in the report. However, the report does reinforce and support the issue of how the arts assist in other academic realms. Another finding of the study dismisses the commonly held belief that students are either left- or right-brained learners.

For the *Education Week* article, visit www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2008/03/12/27arts_ep.h27.html?tmp=1440672616. For the Dana Foundation report, visit www.dana.org/news/publications/publication.aspx?id=10760.




United Kingdom May Require Schools to Evaluate Student Creativity

The government of the United Kingdom is investigating ways to measure creativity and how to assess it. An article published in the February 15, 2008 edition of the *Times Educational Supplement* states that the assessments that the UK Government is looking in to may go beyond measuring skills in music and art and include topics such as taking risks, questioning and challenging, and communication. The article goes on to state that there are teachers and experts who are critical of trying to come up with an assessment that could end up inhibiting the creativity that the Government wants to encourage.

For the *Times Educational Supplement* article, visit www.tes.co.uk/2577431.

Presidential Candidate Profiles

As the leading Presidential candidates continue to campaign across the nation and the Pennsylvania Democratic primary approaches (April 22), the Arts Education Collaborative has put together a profile for each of the leading candidates as it relates to their positions on education and arts education to help inform our constituents. All information that is provided below is available in more depth by following the links provided in the "for more information" row for each candidate. It is also important to note that the information below is solely based on information that each campaign has made available to the general public.

Hillary Clinton - Democrat	John McCain - Republican	Barack Obama - Democrat
 <p>Photo Courtesy: www.hillaryclinton.com</p>	 <p>Photo Courtesy: John McCain 2008 - www.johnmccain.com</p>	 <p>Photo Courtesy: www.obama.senate.gov</p>
Education Position Statements		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Childhood Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports nurse home visitation programs to help new parents develop parenting skills • Supports quality child care and Head Start • Supports pre-kindergarten for all four-year olds • K-12 Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will end No Child Left Behind • Will meet the funding promises of IDEA • Will expand early-intervention mentoring programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K-12 Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports school vouchers and an expansion of a school voucher program • Will reform No Child Left Behind 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Childhood Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports expanding Early Head Start and Head Start • Will create Early Learning Challenge Grants to help states move toward voluntary, universal pre-school • K-12 Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will reform No Child Left Behind • Will double funding for the 21st Century Learning Centers program • Will make math and science education a national priority
Arts Education Position Statements:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will ensure that school curricula include arts education • Supports arts education through the new Putting Arts in Reach initiative • Will double funding for arts education • Supports an increase in funding for the National Endowment for the Arts 	<p>Please note: John McCain's campaign was contacted directly for more information regarding the Senator's position on education and arts education. No response to our inquiry was given by the time of publication.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will expand Public/Private partnerships between schools and arts organizations • Will create an Artist Corps of teaching artists to work in low-income schools & their communities • Supports an increase in funding for the National Endowment for the Arts
For More Information:		
<p>Visit www.hillaryclinton.com or www.artsactionfund.org/artsvote/001.asp</p>	<p>Visit www.johnmccain.com or http://projects.washingtonpost.com/2008-presidential-candidates/john-mccain/</p>	<p>Visit www.barackobama.com or www.artsactionfund.org/artsvote/001.asp</p>

Opportunities & Offerings

Office of Public Art, City of Pittsburgh

What: Consultant team to create a public art plan for the Pittsburgh arena area

Where: Pittsburgh Arena

Deadline: March 21, 2008

The new Pittsburgh Arena will be the home for the Pittsburgh Penguins and will replace their current arena, Mellon Arena. The arena will also function as a multipurpose venue for performing arts and entertainment. The consultant/consultant team will analyze the Pittsburgh Arena Master Development Plan, make recommendations to the Contextual Design Advisory Panel and meet with City staff, project stakeholders and the community to develop a comprehensive public art plan for the arena. The art plan should provide for projects that depict the history, present and future of Pittsburgh, the Hill District, Uptown and the Pittsburgh Penguins. The link to the RFQ is http://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/cp/assets/new_arena/08_Arena_Art_RFQ.pdf. If you have any questions regarding this RFQ, please contact Kimberly Baker at 412.255.2516.

August Wilson Center for African American Culture

What: Poetry and Spoken Word Contest

Deadline: April 9, 2008

Before he became an award-winning playwright, August Wilson was first a poet. In 1965, Wilson purchased his first typewriter for \$20 and began to write poetry. In the late 1960s, he became part of a group of poets, educators and artists who formed the Centre Avenue Poets Theater Workshop in Pittsburgh.

High school poets and spoken word artists are invited to submit a poem inspired by August Wilson's life and work. Whether you've seen or read one of Wilson's plays, or read a biography of him, this is your opportunity to honor his words with your words. Eligible participants include all high school students (grades 9-12) in Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Washington and Westmoreland counties.

Contact Sarah Williams at 412.258.2664 or e-mail SWilliams@AugustWilsonCenter.org for further information.

Carnegie Museum of Natural History

What: Teacher Workshop: Exploring Biotechnology

Where: Carnegie Museum of Natural History

When: Saturday, April 12, noon-4 pm

Interested in biotechnology and in earning four Act 48 Hours? Then Carnegie Museum of Natural History has the teacher workshop for you! Join us on April 12 from noon to 4 p.m. and explore the core techniques used in biotechnology by participating in a variety of hands-on activities. You will learn how to integrate biotechnology into a variety of life science lessons while discovering how scientists at our museum use biotechnology and DNA research in their own work. You'll also receive a variety of lesson plans and resources for applying the activities from this workshop in grades 3-9 classes. \$40/participant. Pre-registration required, call 412.622.3288.

Carnegie Museum of Art

What: 2008 Carnegie International: Teacher Open House

Where: Carnegie Museum of Art

When: Wednesday, May 14, 4-8 pm

America's preeminent international survey of contemporary art returns to Pittsburgh for its 55th installment in May of 2008. Experience this planet's most intriguing art right here at Carnegie Museum of Art during an exclusive open-house for teachers on May 14. Douglas Fogle, exhibition curator, will share his insights, and you will have the opportunity to tour *Life on Mars* and to share your feedback with Museum staff. Enjoy wine and appetizers, and receive Act 48 credit for helping us develop interdisciplinary connections to your curriculum. \$10 admission; advance registration required. Please call Carnegie Museum of Art's group visits office at 412.622.3288 for more information and to register.

Upcoming Events

Frick Art & History Center

What: "Senior" Sundays

Where: Frick Art & History Center

When: March 16 & 30

It's not too late to take advantage of Senior Sundays at the Frick! Show off your "senior" status and receive half-price admission to Clayton, the historic turn-of-the-twentieth-century home of Henry Clay Frick and his family. Whether you are a senior citizen (65 or older) or a senior in high school or college, take advantage of the \$5.00 ticket price for a docent-led tour of the mansion. Reservations are recommended – call 412.371.0600.

Pittsburgh Public Theater

What: *Rabbit Hole*: Open Stage Student Matinee

Where: Pittsburgh Public Theater

When: April 23, 11:30 am

Show Description-A couple that seemingly has it all is forced to confront the ultimate loss. Playwright David Lindsay-Abaire balances honesty with humor, and tragedy with hope in this moving five-time Tony Award-nominated play exploring a family's journey to find their way out of the darkness after their lives are suddenly—and forever—changed.

For more information on the Open Stage Student Matinees, please call the Education Department at 412.316.8200 ext. 715 or visit us on the web at www.ppt.org. To make reservations, call Group Sales at 412.316.8200 ext. 704.

Please submit your Upcoming Events & Opportunities to Dana at: castod@artsedcollaborative.org
Due to limited space, submissions will run on a first come, first served basis.

Children's Festival Chorus

What: Mendelssohn's *Elijah*

Where: Carnegie Music Hall, Oakland

When: Friday, April 25, 8pm

To bring to life one of the most popular and dramatic oratorios of all time, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, the 8-to-15 year-olds of the Children's Festival Chorus will join the Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh, guest soloists including Metropolitan Opera star Timothy Noble, and the Academy Chamber Orchestra. For one night only, audiences can follow the breathtaking, tragic, and ultimately rapturous story of the prophet Elijah. For more information and tickets visit www.themendelssohnchoir.org or call 412.394.3353.

Pittsburgh Glass Center

What: Mother's Day Make-It-Now

Where: Pittsburgh Glass Center

When: May 10 & 11, 10am - 4pm

Try something new before or after brunch on Mother's Day weekend. Make your own glass flower at Pittsburgh Glass Center. For \$25, local glass artists will guide participants through a hands-on experience in the Hot Shop twisting and pulling molten glass and sculpting it into a colorful glass flower.

Pre-registration is not required, but we suggest calling ahead because time slots fill up fast; however, walk-ins are always welcome. We offer many times throughout the year to "Make-It-Now." For more details or to register call 412.365.2145 ext. 201.

Carnegie Museum of Art

What: Ecology. Design. Synergy

Where: Heinz Architectural Center

When: February 23 through May 25

In the hands of the Stuttgart-based architecture and engineering firms Behnisch Architekten and Transsolar Climate Engineering, "green architecture" melds environmentally responsible design with a remarkable architectural aesthetic. In collaboration, the firms have produced designs that transform urban spaces and work environments for contemporary life. Of particular interest to Pittsburgh viewers is their winning RiverParc project for the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust. For more information, visit www.cmoa.org.

Sarah Tambucci, Ph.D.: Director
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